

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 6-13 with the following:

– As the labeled antibodies or second antibodies used in the present invention, it is possible to use not only human polyclonal antibodies against prothrombin, F_1 , F_2 , or $F_1 + F_2$, but also human monoclonal antibodies against prothrombin, F_1 , F_2 , or $F_1 + F_2$. Here, F_1 and F_2 are peptides constituting prothrombin. Polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies prepared by immunization with synthetic peptides having ~~antigenicity~~ antigenicity of prothrombin can also be used. –

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs on page 7, lines 3-23 with the following:

– As the protease inhibitor, it is possible to use inhibitors, mentioned on page 452 in “Rinsho Koso Handbook (Clinical Enzyme Handbook)” (1st ed., edited by Kitamura, Baba et al. and issued by Kodansha Scientific Co., on September 10, 1982), that is, plasma proteinous inhibitors, hirudine, benzamidine and synthetic inhibitor such as PMSF (phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride), NPGB and or the like. However, these inhibitors are not sufficient for inhibiting the enzyme activity of thrombin, so it has been found that the enzyme activity is significantly reduced without losing its ~~antigenicity~~ antigenicity even when a purified preparation of thrombin is subjected to heat treatment, e.g., at about 40 to 65 °C.

A commercial purified preparation of thrombin is to be stored primarily in a refrigerated or frozen form and not to be exposed to a high temperature. The heating temperature for thrombin used in the present invention is 30 to 70 °C, particularly preferably 40 to 60 °C, so that the heating time can be reduced to 15 to 60 minutes. As a matter of course, this heating is aimed at inactivating the enzyme activity of thrombin, and hence insofar as the enzyme can be inactivated without losing its ~~antigenicity~~ antigenicity, the heating temperature and heating time are not limited to the above ranges. –